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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of the Czech Republic

Paper submitted by the Czech Republic**

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** Prepared by Mr. Pavel Boháč, Commission for Geographical Names, Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre, Prague.

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The national standardization of geographical names in the Czech Republic is carried out by the Ministry of Interior, by the Ministry of Regional Development, by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (COSMAC) and by the Cadastral Offices. The authorised names are the result of the standardization. The names are being standardized on the basis of literal language with regard to the locally used variant and only in Czech. The English written publication Toponymic Guidelines of the Czech Republic which was published in 1997 by the COSMAC should make the orientation in the Czech toponymy easy to the persons interested in it.

The State Map Series indicate the standardized geographical names on the territory of the Czech Republic. In the cader of the Basic Maps of the Czech Republic, the Basic Map 1:10 000 is the most determinative. The toponymy of 99% of 4 573 sheets of this map was standardized during the last 25 years.

Smce 1994 the digital Fundamental Base of Geographic Data (so called ZABAGED) created as a part of the state informational system has been worked on in the competence of the COSMAC which has entrusted Land Survey Office with the responsibility to administer the ZABAGED. Smce 1997 the descriptive data of the List of the Geographical Names used in the Basic Map of the Czech Republic 1:10 000 have been inserted into the spatial database called GEONAME.

The standardized place names of the Czech Republic have been published in the Statistic List of Municipalities. The selected names are published in collection of geographic names publications called „UNO Gazetteers of Geographical Names". In 1996 the 1st edition of the gazetteer Major Geomorphological Units of the Czech Republic has been issued.

The Czech Republic plans to publish a Czech version of the Glossary of Toponymic Terminology after the definitive form of the Glossary is finished by Working Group on Toponymic Terminology and issued by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

In principle the Czech Republic respects the preference of endonyms. The world-wide recommended tendency to reduce the using of exonyms has prevailed at first in the names of settlements.

The way of romanization of non-Roman scripts in the Czech Republic usually complies with recommendations of United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, although older phonetic romanization systems of some of non-Roman scripts (Chinese, Arabic, Russian) are used as well.

The 3rd edition of the publication The Names of the States and their Territorial Parts was published in the Czech Republic in 1993. Among others it contents current names of all countries of the world in Czech and world languages and the country names in offical form in Czech and original languages.

Smce the last UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Czech Republic has regularly participated at the meetings of the UN East Central and South-East Europe regional Division and at the sessions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

National standardization of geographical names 1993-1997

Office treatment of names and administrative structure of national names authorities

In connection with the division of the previous Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the constitution of the independent Czech Republic a number of legal acts concerning the national standardization of geographical names were adopted in the Czech Republic during the years 1992 - 1996. The national standardization of the non-settlement names and the names of the cadastral districts is carried out by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (COSMAC) as the central body of the state administration and by the Cadastral Offices as the territorial bodies of the state administration in the field of geodesy, cartography and cadastre in accordance with the Act No. 359/1992 Coll., on Surveying Mapping and Cadastral Bodies as amended by following legislation. The national standardization of the names of the basic spatial units, i.e. the names of municipalities and their parts is carried out by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic in accordance with the Act No. 367/1990 Coll. The standardization of the names of the basic settlement units, i.e. the names of the spatial units for settlement planning is carried out by the Ministry of Regional Development. The names of the districts (counties), municipalities, parts of the municipalities, basic settlement units, cadastral districts, streets and other public spaces in the settlements represent the spatial identifiers in the Standard of the State Information System (SIS) as well. This standard was adopted in 1993.

It is declared by the Act No. 200/1994 Coll., on Surveying and Mapping that the standardization of the names of non-settlement geographical features on the territory of the Czech Republic and the names of settlement and non-settlement geographical features on the other territories as well as the administration of the respective information systems are the surveying and mapping activities carried out in the public interest. The process of standardization of geographical names on the Basic Maps of the Czech Republic is detailly regulated by the Decree of the COSMAC No. 31/1995 Coll. which applies out the Act No. 200/1994 Coll. The subjects of standardization regulated by the cited Decree are as follows: non-settlement names on the territory of the Czech Republic in the scale of the state map series 1 : 10 000, Czech equivalents of the names on the other territories and historical variants of these names. The COSMAC carries out the standardization as one of its functions. The proposals for standardization are being passed to the Commission for Geographic Names which acts as an advisory body of the said office. The activity in the field of standardization and the inner regulation of the said commission has been specified by the new statutes, which came into effect on the 1st April, 1997.

The Decree of the COSMAC No. 190/1996 Coll. which applies out the Acts No. 265/1992 Coll. and No. 344/1992 Coll. as amended by following legislation regulates the process of the geographic names standardization of the geographical features which are described only on the maps of a scales larger than 1:10 000, namely on the cadastral maps. The authorised names obligatory used in the production of the Czech State Map Series are the result of this process. The proposed names are being standardized on the basis of literal language with regard to the locally used variant and only in Czech. The national minorities do not inhabit a certain area in such dense concentration that it would be necessary to standardize the respective geographical names also in the language of relevant minority.

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

The English written publication Toponymic Guidelines of the Czech Republic which was published in 1997 by the COSMAC should make the orientation in the Czech toponymy easy to the persons interested in it. The guideline includes the following: language and orthography of Czech geographical names, geographic names authority and standardization of geographical names, geographic data media, glossary of designations and generic terms on State Map Series,abbreviations on state map series and administrative division of the Czech Republic.

Toponymic data files

Data collection procedures

The State Map Series indicate the standardized geographical names on the territory of the Czech Republic. In the cader of the Basic Maps of the Czech Republic, the Basic Map 1:10 000 is the most determinative. The toponymy of 99% of 4 573 sheets of this map was standardized during the last 25 years. The final form of the standardized names was influenced by the standpoints of locally competent municipal and cadastral offices. The proposals of names which were to be used in the State Map Series went through the secretariat of the Commission for Geographic Names of the COSMAC or its predecessors in order to be adjusted for subsequent approval.

Data Elements Required

The elaborate List of the Geographical Names used in the Basic Map of the Czech Republic 1:10 000 represents the result of the standardization process.

Each entry in the List contains the following :

(i) the full form of the standardized name (name used in the map),

(ii) non-standardized variants of the name,

(iii) the short description of the named object,

(iv) its localization on the map (the names of the municipality and the cadastral district, the designation of the map sheet).

Automated data processing systems

Since 1994 the digital Fundamental Base of Geographic Data (so called ZABAGED) created as a part of the state informational system using the technology of the Geographical Information System (GIS) has been worked on in the competence of the COSMAC. The aim of ZABAGED as a combination of space and description data is to create a topological vector-database of spatial oriented information systems. Space data in ZABAGED are stated in the national geodetic reference system, called S-JTSK, in the scope relating to the scale of 1:1O OOO. Within the present time the digital cartographic raster-data base of the Czech Republic including the standardized geographical names - so called ZABAGED/2 has been finished and the process of the topologic vector-data base model formation - so called ZABAGED/1 is being accelerated by means of vectorization programmes in the environment of Intergraph MGE. Since 1997 the descriptive data of the List of the Geographical Names used in the Basic Map of the Czech Republic 1:10 000 have been inserted into the spatial database called GEONAME. The data are formed in tables of relational database ORACLE. The special system ORBIS puts a connection with the combined data of ZABAGED into practice. The space data are exported in the vector format DGN or DXF, the description data are exported in the table form of ASCII files. Owing to the used coordinate system and the scale therein the prospective connection between geographical data and future digital real estate register of the Czech Republic could be attained. In the future ZABAGED may serve as information base for the production of basic and thematic state maps of middle and small scales. The COSMAC entrusted Land Survey Office with the responsibility to administer the ZABAGED.

National gazetteers

The standardized place names of the Czech Republic have been published in the Statistic List of Municipalities by the Czech Statistical Office and by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic in 1994. The changes in the Czech toponymy are inserted into the Central Bulletin of the Czech Republic (municipality names) and the Bulletin of the Czech Office for Surveying Mapping and Cadastre (cadastral district names). Moreover the selected names are published by the COSMAC in collection of geographic names publications called „UNO Gazetteers of Geographical Names". In 1996 the 1st edition of the gazetteer Major Geomorphological Units of the Czech Republic has been issued. It contains the list of the names of the Czech major geomorphological units with their highest points of elevation classified according to the taxonomical system, including the map in the scale of 1:500 000 with the demarcation. The gazetteer gives the basic principles for using these names in foreign texts and relevant English, French, German, Russian and Spanish exonyms provided they are existing.

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

The Czech Republic plans to publish a Czech version of the Glossary of Toponymic Terminology after the definitive form of the Glossary is finished by Working Group on Toponymic Terminology and issued by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Exonyms

In principle the Czech Republic respects the preference of endonyms namely in the cartographic production. Using of the Czech exonyms is regulated by the relevant recommendations of UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names. The exonyms are stated in the brakets behind the endonyms, for example Beijing (Peking), Dimashq (Damašek), München (Mnichov), Thames (Temže), Huang He (Žlutá řeka), Rocky Mountains (Skalnaté hory). Along with endonyms, the exonyms are referred to within the necessary extent in the cartographic production intended for the schools. Besides in the form of an exonym the names of states, continents and large natural units (choronyms) are used on the maps edited in the Czech Republic as well as the names of large geographical features, rivers and water areas which are spreaded into several countries, and finally the names of oceans, seas and other objects which are beyond the sovereignty of a respective state. The world-wide recommended tendency to reduce the using of exonyms has prevailed at first in the names of settlements. This tendency is assisted by a process of natural decrease of some exonyms in the Czech language. Czech exonyms Pětikostelí (Pécs), Varadín (Oradea), Celovec (Klagenfurt), Lehnice (Legnica), Brunšvik (Braunschweig) and some others can be mentioned as an example. Step by step, their occurrence in the spoken language is decreasing. At the same time we must point out that the constituation of new official names on the territory of former Soviet Union causes that the types of names like Charkov (Kharkiv), Krivoj Rog (Kryvyi Rih), Baku (Baki), Alma-Ata (Almaty) are de facto becoming the new Czech exonyms. The provisional list of the Czech exonyms called The List of Current Czech Geographic Proper Names published in 1981 is therefore out-of-dated by now and its modernization is being prepared at present.

Romanization

The Czech Republic respects the romanization systems of non-Roman scripts that were recommended to be used by United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The way of romanization of non-Roman scripts in the Czech Republic usually complies with these recommendations, although older phonetic romanization systems of some of non-Roman scripts (Chinese, Arabic, Russian) are used as well. The existence of non-Roman scripts commonly

used by the transliteration/ /transcription systems which are not internationally recommended causes the problems in the Czech Republic. Such imperfection is primarily connected with the romanization of Ukrainian and Belarusian Cyrillic.

Country names

The 3rd edition of the publication The Names of the States and their Territorial Parts was published in the Czech Republic in 1993. It contents the list of the standardized Czech current names of all countries of the world, relevant current names in English, French, German, Russian and Spanish, the country names in official form in Czech and original languages, the names and coordinates of their capitals and Czech and official names of the member state of the federations. The map of the world in scale of 1 : 4O OOO and other partial maps for federal states are attached. Compared with the foregoing editions the text was amplified e.g. the names of the territorial parts of federal states capitals were added.

Meetings and conferences

Since the last UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Czech Republic has regularly participated at the meetings of the UN East, Central and South-East Europe linguistic/geographical Division and at the sessions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The 12th (in 1993), 13th (in 1996) and 14th (in 1997) meetings of the regional Division were held in Budapest, the 17th session of the UN Group of Experts was held in New York (in 1994) and the 18th session in Geneva (in 1996). The Czech Republic also took part at the international Symposium on Geographical Names which was held in Vienna (Austria) in 1996.